

Remarks

Entry of the above-noted amendments, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 20-33 are canceled. These amendments to the claims constitute a bona fide attempt by applicants to advance prosecution of the application and obtain allowance of certain claims, and are in no way meant to acquiesce to the substance of the rejections. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-18, 34, 36, 37, 39, and 40 are pending.

Interview on January 3, 2008:

The amendments herein follow a telephone conference between the Examiner, and applicants' attorney Marc. A. Valdivia along with Bradley H. Valenzo, member of technical staff of applicants' attorney, on January 3, 2008 in which the pending claims were discussed. During the telephone conference, positive discussion was had and agreement was reached that the Applicants would submit a response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief which cancels all pending rejected claims based on the Advisory Action mailed April 19, 2006 and the After Final Amendment mailed January 17, 2006.

The time and courtesy afforded applicants' attorney and the member of technical staff of applicants' attorney as well as the positive discussion and above listed agreements reached, are gratefully acknowledged by applicants.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Advisory Action mailed April 19, 2006 indicated that claims 1, 3, 4, 7-18, 34, 36, 37, 39 and 40 were allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge this indication of allowance.

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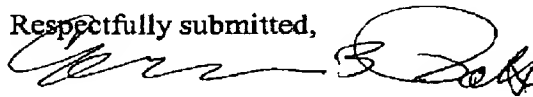
Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 20-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. These rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 20-33.

Withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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